

Town of Hopkinton, NH

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Recycling Committee Minutes - 03/13/2007

Hopkinton/Webster Recycling Committee Meeting Minutes March 13, 2007

Present: Chris Lawless, Mary Leadbeater, David Lancaster, Don Lane, Debbie Augustine, Katherine Mitchell, Betsy Janeway, Sally Embley, Bob Lapree

The meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. Introductions were made. Betsy Janeway and Sally Embley were welcomed as representatives of the town of Webster. Bob Lapree was invited as a new member from Hopkinton to the committee to fill Michelle Wheeler's seat as she recently indicated that she could no longer serve on the committee. The minutes from the February meeting were approved with no changes.

The group asked Don about Warrant Article 7 as they weren't sure what its ramifications would be if approved. Don explained that the existing money (\$90,000?) in the Recycling revolving fund could be spent down this year but in the future the fund would be limited to \$20,000.

Don told the committee about a "green" initiative for the town of Hopkinton, of which pay as you throw (PAYT) and recycling programs would be a key components. The initiative would also include a community garden, tree planting, energy efficiency programs, use of natural fertilizers on the town fields, environmentally preferable purchasing programs and more. The committee enthusiastically supported the concept.

The group reviewed David's PAYT proposal which provided estimates of bag prices based on the cost of transport and tipping and based on the operating costs of the transfer station.. Debbie told David that the average weight held by a 33-gallon bag is 20 pounds, rather than the 40 pounds as noted in his proposal. Debbie said that she will check to see how many pounds the 13-gallon bags hold and get back to David. He will recalculate his estimates based on the average pounds the bags hold.

The group once again discussed the idea of having a place in-town where residents could drop off their recycling. Debbie, Mary and Katherine handed out recycling flyers at the school district and town meetings and were told by some residents that they would recycle more if it wasn't such a long ride to the transfer station which wastes fuel and pollutes the air. Katherine wondered if some of the revolving fund money could be used to subsidize a hauler to pick up recyclables once a week. They also talked about parking a truck at the Town Hall or possibly the Grange building. They discussed doing a two-month pilot program, beginning on April 21st (the day before Earth Day) to see how well it would work. Chris will e-mail Steve Clough to see if a person and a truck could be made available from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. to help monitor the recyclables. He also wondered about how much it would cost to rent a trailer for the duration of the pilot program.

The next meeting will be April 10th. A timeline for implementing PAYT will be discussed.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Augustine
Chris Lawless

